

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 GENEVA 03435 051201Z

14

ACTION L-03

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 ACDA-07 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-04 INR-07 NSAE-00 NASA-01 NSC-05 ERDA-05 OES-06

EB-07 FCC-01 OTPE-00 /072 W
----- 068765

R 051045Z MAY 76

FM USMISSION GENEVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9722

INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION USUN NY

C O N F I D E N T I A L GENEVA 3435

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: TSPA, UN, FR

SUBJ: OUTER SPACE LEGAL SUBCOMMITTEE

1. SUMMARY. USDEL MET WITH FRENCH REP NOEL CHAHID-NOURAI AT HIS REQUEST 4 MAY TO DISCUSS OUTSTANDING SUBCOMMITTEE WORK AND, IN PARTICULAR, DIRECT BROADCAST SATELLITE QUESTIONS.

2. DETAILS. CHAHID-NOURAI WAS EXTREMELY FRANK IN HIS STATEMENT OF FRENCH CONCERN OVER AMERICAN POSITIONS ON TELEVISION DIRECT BROADCAST SATELLITES. HE SAID THAT FRENCH AND US POSITIONS WILL REMAIN FUNDAMENTALLY FAR APART UNLESS THE US COULD AGREE, FIRST, THAT OUR WILLINGNESS TO ENTER INTO CONSULTATIONS ON DBS ISSUES, ARTICULATED BY THE SECRETARY IN MONTREAL AND AMB. BENNETT AT THE UN, WOULD APPLY TO PROGRAMMING AND PROGRAM CONTENT IN ADDITION TO THE ESTABLISHMENT AND OPERATION OF DBS SYSTEMS. SECOND, FRANCE WOULD WANT ASSURANCE THAT UNTIL CONSULTATIONS RESULTED IN AGREEMENT, DIRECT BROADCASTING OPERATIONS AS TO WHICH A COUNTRY HAD REQUESTED CONSULTATION WOULD NOT BE CARRIED OUT. WE EXPLAINED HOW THIS WOULD GO FAR BEYOND ANYTHING CONTEMPLATED BY THEUS, WHETHER IN THE DBS FIELD OR ELSEWHERE, AND THAT AGREEMENT TO A VETO POWER IN OTHERS COULD NOT REASONABLY BE ANTICIPATED OF THE US.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 GENEVA 03435 051201Z

WHEN WE QUESTIONED CHAHID-NOURAI AS TO WHERE THE

QUAI FOUND THE BALANCE OF FRENCH INTERESTS TO LIE, HE ASSERTED FRANCE IS DEEPLY CONCERNED ABOUT THE POSSIBILITY OF FOREIGN BROADCASTERS BROADCASTING INTO FRANCE, AND GAVE AS AN EXAMPLE ELECTIONEERING IN FRENCH POLITICAL CAMPAIGNS USING FOREIGN DBS SYSTEMS. THIS WAS NOT A REMOTE POSSIBILITY, HE BELIEVED. FRANCE WANTED TO MAINTAIN ITS DOMESTIC ANALOGUE TO US EQUAL-TIME REGULATIONS, WHICH, UNDER US LIBERTARIAN VIEWS ON DBS, THEY WOULD BE COMPLETELY UNABLE TO DO. THE IMPORTANCE OF FRENCH REGULATIONS COULD BE SEEN FROM THE FACT THAT GISCARD HAD BEEN ELECTED BY THE MOST SLENDER OF MAJORITIES; OUTSIDE AND UNCONTROLLED BROADCASTING INTO FRENCH HOMES COULD HAVE EASILY AFFECTED THE OUTCOME. PARIS HAD HAD ENOUGH TROUBLE IMPOSING SILENCE ON MONTE CARLO POLITICAL BROADCASTING AFTER THE LATTER HAD REFUSED TO COMPLY WITH FRENCH EQUAL-TIME REQUIREMENTS.

3. APOLOGIZING FOR SPEAKING SO CANDIDLY, CHAHID-NOURAI SAID PARIS QUESTIONS WHETHER THE US WOULD MAINTAIN ITS ABSOLUTE STAND AGAINST PROGRAM CONTENT CONSULTATIONS AND AGREEMENT WHEN DBS TECHNOLOGY BECAME AVAILABLE TO UNSYMPATHETIC OR HOSTILE FOREIGN BROADCASTERS HAVING THE CAPABILITY OF BROADCASTING "ATTRACTIVE" PROGRAMMING INTO US HOMES. SUCH A DEVELOPMENT WOULD EVENTUALLY OCCUR. FRANCE AND THE US HAVE SHARED LONG INDIVIDUAL LIBERTY TRADITIONS, HE OBSERVED, BUT, FOR FRANCE, INSISTENCE ON PREVENTING OUTSIDE INTERFERENCE INTO FRENCH POLITICAL LIFE WOULD REMAIN IMPORTANT EVEN INTO THE ERA WHEN FRANCE HERSELF DEVELOPED SIGNIFICANT DBS TV CAPABILITIES TO BROADCAST INTO OTHER COUNTRIES AND THUS EXTEND HER INFLUENCE. HE SAID THERE HAD BEEN NO DISAGREEMENT IN THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT ON THIS POINT.

4. IT WAS AGAINST THIS BACKGROUND THAT FRANCE WOULD NOW WORK FOR SUBCOMMITTEE ACCEPTANCE OF THE PRINCIPLE THAT WHERE CONSULTATIONS ARE REQUESTED, THE STATE OF WHICH THE REQUEST IS MADE SHOULD NOT CONDUCT THE QUESTIONED ACTIVITY PENDING MUTUAL RESOLUTION OF ANY DIFFERENCES. PARIS WAS NOT OPTIMISTIC THE US WOULD COME TO ACCEPT THEIR VIEW, AND FOR THIS REASON BELIEVED THAT LITTLE

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 GENEVA 03435 051201Z

PROGRESS WOULD BE MADE ON DBS PRINCIPLES IN THE NEAR TERM. THE SUBCOMMITTEE SHOULD MOVE FORWARD ON LESS CONTENTIOUS DBS PRINCIPLES, BOTH TO REDUCE CONFRONTATIONAL POSSIBILITIES AND FOR FOREIGN POLICY AND SPACE RELATED CONSIDERATIONS, BUT DOING SO WOULD NOT MITIGATE THE PROBLEMS INHERENT IN OUR DIFFERING VIEWS. ABRAMS

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: SPACE AGREEMENTS, COMMITTEES, COMMUNICATION SATELLITES, RADIO BROADCASTING
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 05 MAY 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976GENEVA03435
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760173-0941
From: GENEVA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760590/aaaacynv.tel
Line Count: 113
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION L
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 12 APR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <12 APR 2004 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <13 APR 2004 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: OUTER SPACE LEGAL SUBCOMMITTEE
TAGS: TSPA, FR, US, UN
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006